

Borough of Allendale
Mayor and Council
Work Session
May 14, 2015

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held in the Municipal Building at 500 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ on May 14, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor White who asked that the Interim Municipal Clerk Read the open public meetings statement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public meetings Law. This meeting of May 14, 2015, was included in the list of meetings notice sent to the Record, Ridgewood News, Star Ledger on January 7, 2015 and advertised in said newspapers on January 10, 2015, posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building on January 7, 2015 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The Mayor led those present in a salute to the flag.

Roll Call:

The following individuals answered roll call: Councilmembers Bernstein, Homan, McSwiggan, Sasso, Strauch, and Wilczynski and Mayor White chaired the meeting.

Thomas Bouregy, Municipal Attorney, and Deborah Fehre, Interim Municipal Clerk, were also present.

Mayor White welcomed Mrs. Fehre who is serving as the Interim Municipal Clerk while the Municipal Clerk is on leave.

Public Comments

Mayor White opened the meeting to the public for comments. There were none.

Sustainable New Jersey Towns – Water Restrictions

Councilwoman McSwiggan stated that every year Allendale has water restrictions in place and the residents are notified of them. At the present time Allendale is on Phase I water restrictions. Under this plan, the odd numbered houses are allowed to water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and the even numbered houses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

In the near future a notice of those restrictions will be distributed to the public. This year's notice will also contain information suggesting that residents add a rain sensor to their automatic sprinkling systems. A rain sensor is a device that shuts off the automatic sprinklers after a certain amount of rain is received. These sensors are inexpensive and easy to install and are required in New Jersey for new construction and newly installed sprinkler systems. The use of such a device will prevent residents from watering their lawns during or after a rainfall.

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Councilwoman McSwiggan said she is aware that a lot of planting is currently going on due to lawn damage caused by deer this year. For that reason, water restrictions will only be increased to higher levels if they are needed. Should the wells begin to be drawn down as the weather gets warmer, Councilwoman McSwiggan will talk to the Council about elevating the water restrictions to the next level.

This year the Water Committee is considering coordinating their efforts with the Green Team. Cooperation between these two groups will provide the public with additional information on new ways to conserve water. Councilwoman McSwiggan noted that the Sustainable Jersey program recommends watering only two days a week during specific hours. That allows for more days a week for the wells to recharge.

Council President Bernstein asked what the policy is for notification of water restrictions, enforcement of them and penalties for non-compliance.

Councilwoman McSwiggan responded that although these restrictions have been in place for years, a mailing is done every year as a reminder to the residents. The Police, the DPW, the Water Department and concerned neighbors all provide notification of water restriction violations. Normally after a resident is notified of a violation they comply with the restrictions. The Police authorized to enforce the restrictions.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Homan, Councilwoman McSwiggan noted that the schools are currently involved in educating the children about water shortages and restrictions.

Administration

Agenda Review

Ordinances for Second Reading and Public Hearing

Mayor White said there were three ordinances scheduled for a public hearing and a vote on adoption this evening. They were previously discussed at the meeting when they were introduced, but she asked the Council members if they had any additional comments or questions about them. There were none. The ordinances numbers and topics are as follows:

- Ordinance 15-12 concerning the improper disposal of hazardous materials.
- Ordinance 15-13 concerning the improper disposal of waste.
- Ordinance 15-14 with regard to Raffle and Bingo licenses.

Resolutions

Resolutions 15-161 and 15-162 appointing a Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender.

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Allendale's Public Defender has retired and these resolutions appoint a new Public Defender and an Alternate Public Defender. After interviewing candidates, the recommendation was to hire Robert Metzdorf as the Public Defender and Matt Miller as the Alternate Public Defender. Mayor White thanked Councilman Bernstein for heading up this search.

Resolution 15-164 approving Crestwood seasonal salaries.

Mayor White said a motion will be taken in Regular Session to remove this resolution from the agenda. Another motion will be taken to amend it and then the resolution will be voted on as amended. The reason for these changes is because an additional employee needs to be added to the list of hires. Mayor White commented that many young people who live in the Borough are being hired to work at the Lake this summer. She anticipates they will do an outstanding job.

Resolution 15-166 authorizing Estimated Tax Bills.

Mayor White commented that because the County has not finalized its budget yet, it is necessary for the Borough to authorize estimated tax bills. A similar resolution has been passed each year for a number of prior years.

Resolution 16-167 authorizing the sale of the 1953 Mack Fire Truck.

Mayor White stated that the 1953 Mack Fire Truck needs more extensive repairs than the current Fire Department can pay for out of its budget. It will be sold to the Allendale Exempt Firemen's Association.

Council President Bernstein asked for clarification on whether the Borough is a co-owner of this truck with the Fire Department and if it is being sold to the Allendale Volunteer Fire Department. It was stated in the Resolution that the Fire Truck is owned exclusively by the Borough and it is being sold to the Allendale Exempt Firemen's Association, not the Fire Department.

Mayor White said that a motion will be taken in Regular Session to remove this resolution from the agenda. Another motion will be taken to amend it with the clarifications noted above, and then the resolution will be voted on as amended.

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance 15-11

Mayor White explained that Ordinance 15-11 pertains to Solar Panels. Councilman Strauch stated that there is a portion of this ordinance that requires further clarification.

Mayor White said that a motion will be taken in Regular Session to remove this ordinance from the agenda. It will be introduced at a later time.

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Ordinance 15-15

Mayor White said this Ordinance concerns temporary storage containers which are also known as “pods”. The Ordinance will allow the Borough some jurisdiction over these containers where there has been none before.

There was discussion about the locations on an individual's property where temporary storage containers may be located.

Mayor White said the Zoning Officer and Construction Code Official will have some leeway with regard to the jurisdiction of this issue.

Mr. Bouregy suggested adding a provision to the end of Chapter 238-16, “Enforcement” stating that the enforcement officer will have discretion to relax the rules as may be reasonably necessary.

Mayor White said a motion will be taken in Regular Session to amend the Ordinance as stated above.

On a motion by Councilman Strauch, seconded by Councilwoman Homan, the Work Session recessed in order to call the Regular Session to order at 8:05 p.m. On roll call, all Council members voted in favor.

The Work Session resumed at 8:07 p.m.

Ordinance 15-16

Mayor White said the purpose of this Ordinance is to allow the municipality to recover the cleanup costs that the town incurs when a hazardous substance is spilled in the Borough.

Ordinance 15-17

Mayor White said this Ordinance revises the Borough Code with regard to littering. Specifically the Police will be given the ability to enforce penalties with regard to the illegal dumping of materials on Borough property.

Ordinance 15-18

Mayor White said this Ordinance will appropriate \$35,000 from the Capital Fund Balance to pay the engineering costs on capital projects. Several large capital projects have come in recently that were not a part of the original capital bond ordinance. Funding is available in the capital surplus that will enable these projects to be completed this year.

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List of Bills

Mayor White, Council President Bernstein and Councilwoman Wilczynski stated they have all reviewed the Bill List and are satisfied with the items that are on it.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 15-175

Mayor White said this Resolution will approve the 2015 Farmers Market which is scheduled to begin on June 6th. This year the Farmers Market will be located in front of Borough Hall.

Resolutions 15-177, 15-178 and 15-179

These resolutions allow the Mayor to sign contracts with several bands that are scheduled to perform at Crestwood Lake during the summer months. Council President Bernstein asked if there is an admission fee for the concerts.

Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that the beach party for adults is the only fundraiser held during the summer. Proceeds from that fundraiser pay for the bands, the movie nights and the game nights throughout the season. In addition a movie screen and projector were purchased with that money. The admission fee to the beach party is \$50.

Mayor's Report

Mayor White said a pre-construction meeting was held at the County yesterday regarding the West Crescent Avenue Bridge. The County will be replacing that bridge, and in order to do so West Crescent Avenue will be closed from Park Avenue to Brookside Avenue for one year. Northbound traffic will use Park Avenue which will continue to be one way. The southbound detour will send traffic down Orchard Street to Franklin Turnpike.

The County has assured Allendale that this project will not be started until the Elm Street Culvert Project has been completed. A guard rail still needs to be installed on the Elm Street site which has been deemed unsafe until the rail is put in place. The County has assured Mayor White that they are checking with the contractor on a daily basis about the completion of this project. Allendale has asked to have concrete barriers temporarily installed so the street can be opened to traffic.

Mayor White has asked representatives of the County to come to Allendale on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall to meet with residents and answer their questions about the upcoming West Crescent Avenue closure. It is hoped the closure will not occur until after June 24th which is the last day of school in Allendale. The County will provide the public with a time line for the project.

Mayor White said that a very productive meeting was held today with Cindy Randazzo, the Public Relations Director for the NJDEP. Many topics were discussed including deer management, the water moratorium, and recycling. These issues will be revisited with her in the near future.

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On a motion by Councilwoman McSwiggan, seconded by Councilman Strauch, all Council members voted in favor of returning to the Regular Session at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Fehre, RMC
Interim Municipal Clerk